

Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1120 17th street South, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

Office Phone: (218) 233-1857 Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Church E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com

Church Website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org

Pastor: Taylor Johnson

Pastor's E-mail Address: graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com

Parsonage Phone: (218) 422-6586

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April 1, 2025

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM

Grace and Peace to each of you!

Throughout Lent we have journeyed together on a road of reflection and giving up ways of life that don't follow Jesus' call for us. As we prepare our hearts for Easter, we are drawn once again to the culmination of Jesus' life among us—the resurrection. This Easter, we focus on a powerful theme: *Giving Up Death*. In this season of resurrection, we reflect on how Jesus' triumph over death invites us to surrender all that holds us in its grip—fear, sin, despair—and embrace the new life He offers.

This Easter, as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, we are reminded that the resurrection is not just about a future hope but about a present reality. When we give up death in all its forms, we are invited to embrace new life—a life of reconciliation, peace, and joy in Christ. Jesus' resurrection is not just an event we remember; it is a reality we are called to live. As the body of Christ, we are called to be people of resurrection hope, sharing the love and grace of God with a world in desperate need of new life. The Easter story is one of transformation, and we are called to be agents of that transformation in our communities.

It is important that we not skip right over death in order to give it up. Holy Week reminds us of the grim realities we must face in order to do so, where we see sacrificial love on full display to the world through the washing of feet, breaking of bread, and a willful surrender of the Savior to trust in God in the bleakest of times. I hope you can make plans to join us for times of connection and worship to embrace the significance of the full Easter story.

Service Times:

Palm Sunday Worship:

Sunday, April 13, 10:00 am

A Service of Christ's Passion

Friday, April 18, 6:00 pm

Easter Sunday Worship:

Sunday, April 20, 10:00 am

This Easter, may we all be transformed by the power of the resurrection. As we give up death in all its forms, let us take hold of the abundant life that Jesus promises. May the hope of the resurrection fill your heart with joy, peace, and a renewed commitment to walk in the light of Christ.

With blessings of resurrection joy,
Pastor Taylor Johnson



PALMS, PANCAKES AND PICTURES



Invite your friends and family to join us on Palm Sunday, April 13th, for worship at 10:00 am followed by a pancake breakfast, an Easter-themed photo booth, and activities for the kiddos.



PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

Pat Walter	(Elim
Don Walter	(Pioneer House)
Luann Larson	(River Pointe)
Will Wehrman	(Eventide—Fargo)
Shirley Mohr	(Serenity)



DONUTS

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are being made on April 9th and 23rd for \$10.00 a dozen. To place an order for donuts call the office, 233-1857, use the sign up sheet on the table in the Connection Center, or the website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts.

GRADUATION

Congratulations to all the students who are graduating in May. Please let the office know by April 22nd if anyone in your family is graduating to be listed in the May Newsletter. We wish all graduates much success on their future plans of furthering their education or beginning their working career.



April Birthdays

3—E. Fangsrud
5—A. Schroeder
A. Roberts
9—M. Hoganson
10—X. Martin
11—S. Gedrose
15—L. Burkhardt
16—M. Eisen
17—M. Borgen
23—K. Heidrich
25—A. Severson
30—L. Possehl



ROOF UPDATE

Phase one of the roof project is complete! We are grateful for the speedy work of Dalsin Roofing Co. in repairing the roof over the Connection Center and kitchen area. In the future, there will be more work done to sure up our roof for the next several years, but this was the most critical component. Thank you to those who have responded generously to help fund this project, but we still have a little ways to go, \$22,324 to be exact. The Fund-Raise the Roof banner is now on display! As you are able to give, whether it's \$1, \$5, or \$100, please put up a shingle on the roof and add your name if you'd like so we can see our collective work come together.



April Anniversaries

11—J. & B. Fraundorfer
15—S. & N. Grow
29—L. & S. Simmons
30—L. & J. Possehl



OFFUTT SCHOLARSHIP

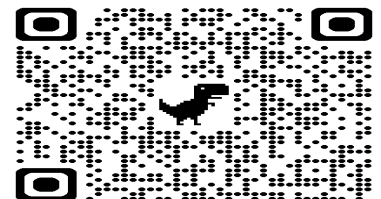
Applications for the 2025 Offutt Scholarship are now available. These scholarships are available to members of Grace UMC and their families for post-secondary education for the coming academic year. Applications are due in the office by August 1, 2025. If you have any questions about the Scholarships or about the Grace UMC Endowment, please contact P. Anderson.

WORSHIP AT GRACE 10:00 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICES are livestreamed on Facebook and on the website: graceumcmoorhead.org

Offerings may be mailed to Grace UMC, 1120 17th Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560

Online giving available through Givelify! Go to graceumcmoorhead.org/give and click the button to make your one time or recurring gift.



YOU ARE A SEED PLANTED FOR GREATNESS

Del Larson, CLM

Burying something is usually meant to be in forever darkness. Whether it be garbage, dead fish, or burying a loved one after they die, they are in their final resting place, never to be removed or recovered. **Planting** is much different!

First, you were a seed placed in your mother's womb by the grace of God. You were destined, as God had a plan for you, before your parents and others ever saw you. Yes, you have a destiny. You were designed for something great. A purpose that we might not understand until we are older. Yet, some might not live to adulthood, maybe disabled, or mentally impaired. How can those be destined for greatness. We don't know God's plans, nor can we judge what is greatness. Everyone will have an impact on someone else somehow, some way, whoever they are!

Most often, we can't see what greatness might be, because we see greatness as winning a medal, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, or a hefty reward. Maybe a class president, or president of a corporation. Shouldn't greatness be recognized by our character? Shouldn't greatness be judged by what you give to the world more than by what you have? Shouldn't we be recognized by how we treat others? The very first commandment says that we are to love God with all our heart AND love thy neighbor like ourselves. Jesus also said, *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me."* Matt. 25:40

We don't need to bury ourselves because we see ourselves as an "ordinary Joe." Each of us was a planted seed waiting to burst into the light. The ever enriching light of Christ, growing in faith and trusting God and His plan for greatness in our lives. We probably weren't a young athletic star, or rocked the theaters with our voices. We might start out at the bottom of the totem pole when we enter the working world, but greatness could be just down the road. Perhaps greatness is in the person we marry, or in our offspring. For some it could be in retirement with volunteerism (like church), or becoming a respected hobbyist.

For me, a greatness example is my aunt Lucille, who still lives. She rescued me from drowning when I was five years old. I was trying to climb into a boat that my brother was taking out, from the backside, and was dragged out into the deep water. My aunt was the only one that saw me and pulled me out. I spent the following days in the cabin, too frightened to be near the water. If I had not survived, what would have happened to the people I have touched

over the years since that near tragedy? Would Luann, with her years of Muscular Dystrophy, have a husband that cares for her as I do? Our children would not be. My students' lives may have changed. I would not be writing these articles, preaching, or connecting with people in need if I had drowned. You see, for me, I look at God's plan and how he has guided me to be the person He designed. God is working with you also to accomplish greatness. We need to give credit to God for what we accomplish.

Many strange things have happened in my life, that were unique and special. I lost my teaching job in the early 80's, but had another successful job as a hardware store manager in South Dakota, before the school year ended. Two and a half years later, I was back teaching in Moorhead. I was a wiser and better teacher. To me that is pretty great. I give God all the credit for what has happened in my life. My reward will be when I enter Heaven.

How about you? What has God done in your life that has helped you be a better person? Where has He lead you that you didn't expect? What experiences have you had that have inspired you to be greater? Yes, you have worked hard for what you have received, but seriously think of how God has had a hand in those times, helping you be a better person.



GREAT PLAINS FOOD DISTRIBUTION

March's food distribution was a great hit, and we're anticipating even more folks will join us as word of mouth spreads. We will be hosting our next distribution event on Monday, April 14th at 5pm. Volunteers are needed at 4:15 to help set up and direct traffic. A sign up will be available at the Connection Center, or you can contact the church office to let us know. As a reminder, no referrals are needed to receive food, but a simple intake form is filled out upon arrival. If you or anyone you know are in need of food assistance, please let them know. Volunteers are also allowed to take food home if needed!

ADVANCED PLANNING

Tom Pence from Korsmo Funeral and Cremation Service will be hosting an advance planning session at Grace on Tuesday, April 8th at 10:00 am. This conversation will cover everything from obituary writing to service planning. People who have attended these sessions have noted how much relief they have knowing that weight is lifted from their family having to make decisions and giving them space to grieve. This event is open to the public, and can be shared with friends and family.

Date	Psalms	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Apr 1	am: 119:145-176, pm: 128 - 130	Exod 7:8-24	2 Cor 2:14-3:6	Mark 10:1-16
Apr 2	am: 131, 132, 133, pm: 140, 142	Exod 7:25-8:19	2 Cor 3:7-18	Mark 10:17-31
Apr 3	am: 22, pm: 141, 143	Exod 9:13-35	2 Cor 4:1-12	Mark 10:32-45
Apr 4	am: 137, 144, pm: 42, 43	Exod 10:21-11:8	2 Cor 4:13-18	Mark 10:46-52
Apr 5	am: 118, 1-2, 19-29, pm: 31:9-16	Isa 50:4-9a	Phil 4:5-11	Lk 19:28-40
Apr 6	am: 51; pm: 69-1-23	Isa 42:1-9	Heb 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
Apr 7	am: 6,12; pm: 94	Isa 49:1-7	1 Cor 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
Apr 8	am: 55; pm 74	Isa 50:4-9a	Heb 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
Apr 9	am: 102; pm: 142, 143	Exod 12:1-42	1 Cor 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Apr 10	am: 95,22; pm: 40, 54	Isa 52:13-53:12	Heb 10:16-25	John 18:1-19:42
Apr 11	am; 95, 88; pm: 2731:1-4, 15-16	Lam 3:1-9, 19-24	1 Pet 4:1-8	John 19:38-42
Apr 12	am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 113, 114	Exod 12:1-14		John 1:1-18
Apr 13	am: 93, 98, pm: 66	Exod 12:14-27	1 Cor 15:1-11	Mark 16:1-8
Apr 14	am: 103; pm: 111, 114	Exod 12:28-39	1 Cor 15:12-28	Mark 16:9-20
Apr 15	am: 97, 99; pm: 115	Exod 12:40-51	1 Cor 15:29-41	Matt 28:1-16
Apr 16	am: 146, 147; pm: 148, 149	Exod 13:3-10	1 Cor 15:41-50	Matt 28:16-20
Apr 17	am: 136; pm: 118	Exod 13:1-2, 11-16	1 Cor 15:51-58	Luke 24:1-12
Apr 18	am: 145; pm: 104	Exod 13:17-14:4	2 Cor 4:16-5:10	Mark 12:18-27
Apr 19	am: 146, 147; pm: 111, 112, 113	Exod 14:5-22	1 John 1:1-7	John 14:1-7
Apr 20	am: 1, 2, 3; pm: 4, 7	Exod 14:21-31	1 Peter 1:1-12	John 14:1-17
Apr 21	am: 5, 6; pm: 10, 11	Exod 15:1-21	1 Peter 1:13-25	John 14:18-31
Apr 22	am: 119:1-24; pm: 12, 13, 14	Exod 15:22-16:10	1 Peter 2:1-10	John 15:1-11
Apr 23	am: 18:1-20; pm: 18:21-50	Exod 16:10-22	1 Peter 2:11-25	John 15:12-27
Apr 24	am: 16, 17; pm: 134, 135	Exod 16:23-36	1 Peter 3:13-4:6	John 16:1-15
Apr 25	am: 20, 21; pm: 110, 116, 117	Exod 17:1-16	1 Peter 4:7-19	John 16:16-33
Apr 26	am: 148, 149, 150; pm: 114, 115	Exod 18:1-12	1 John 2:7-17	Mark 16:9-20
Apr 27	am: 25; pm: 9, 15	Exod 18:13-27	1 Peter 5:1-14	Matt 1:1-17
Apr 28	am: 26, 28; pm: 36, 39	Exod 19:1-16	Col 1:1-14	Matt 3:1-12
Apr 29	am: 38; pm: 119:25-48	Exod 19:16-25	Col 1:15-23	Matt 3:13-17
Apr 30	am: 37:1-18; pm: 37:19-42	Exod 20:1-21	Col 1:24-2:7	Matt 4:1-11

Grace United Methodist

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm AA	2 4:30 pm NO Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm Lent Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lent Worship 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group	3 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	4	5
6 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	7 1:00 pm Quilting	8 10:00 AM Advanced Planning w/ Tom Pence 7:00 pm AA	9 6:00 am Donut Making 4:30 pm NO Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm Lent Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lent Worship 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group	10 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	11	12
13 Palm Sunday 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 11:00 am Pancake Breakfast	14 1:00 pm Quilting 5:00 pm Food Distri- bution	15 7:00 pm AA	16 4:30 pm NO Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group	17 Maundy Thursday 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	18 Good Friday 6:00 pm Service	19
20 Easter Sunday 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am NO Children's Sunday School	21 1:00 pm Quilting 6:30 pm Leadership Team	22 7:00 pm AA	23 6:00 am Donut Making 4:30 pm NO Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group	24 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	25 5:00—8:00 pm Grace serve at Probstfield Elementary	26
27 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	28 1:00 pm Quilting	29 7:00 pm AA	30 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm Grace Youth Donations pick-up			

YOUTH UPDATE

Hello, Grace!

This past month, with the start of Lent, the youth have spent time reflecting on our lives and faith journeys. We wrapped up February by looking at the prophets. Prophets are those who proclaim the will of God. It can sometimes be difficult to understand the words of prophets; some may not want to listen to a difficult message or perhaps just don't believe whatsoever. Even those who do believe their words can misinterpret them. Trying to understand prophets' messages can be confusing- in the bible or even in our world today. We learned it's always important to remind ourselves of a person's motives; are they doing good or are they harming others? Prophets are those who, amidst struggle, convey God's love through promises and solutions. In a way, we could all be prophets now and then, spreading God's word to those in need.

The youth met on Ash Wednesday to have a conversation about our mortality and sins.

Although this can be a tough thing to talk about, the Bible holds many stories of sin and how we can seek forgiveness in God. Humans are inevitably imperfect; we will never live up to Jesus. We will sin and we will struggle, but we must remember to turn to God for help. Throughout Lent, the youth will be following a Lent Worship Playlist, found here on

Spotify: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/steadfast-love-a-lenten-playlist>. The first song, "Fix You" by Coldplay, helps show us how we can seek refuge and healing through God.



After spring break, Grace Youth gathered to discuss trusting in God. Through song and scripture, we considered feeling hopeless or afraid. The youth talked about what faith looks like during these difficult times. It's not that when we trust God we'll never be afraid, it's that we'll be afraid but still have the courage to continue on. Believing that God will guide us throughout our lives doesn't mean we'll never have any problems; it just means we can face them knowing they'll subside eventually. God provides us with shelter to not just seek protection, but to regain our footing so we can go back into the world. In this sense, we're not meant to just sit back and assume God will do everything for us. We need to work for our success but still have faith that God will help us accomplish it. God isn't a place to hide away from all our problems; rather, God serves as a place to seek refuge so that we may have the strength to overcome these problems. There are brighter days ahead, so long as we work through our struggles trusting that God is by our side. As we move through Lent, the youth will continue looking at these songs and how they relate to ourselves and this season. Feel free to check the playlist out or research other Lenten music to meditate on.

Happy listening and a blessed Lent.
Grace Youth!

YOUTH RUMMAGE SALE

The youth are helping raise money for the roof! On Saturday, May 10th we will be hosting a pay as you're able clothes and toys rummage sale at Grace from 9a-12. Please consider donating your gently used clothing and toys. As part of the youths' efforts, we'll even come pick it up for you! Pickups can be scheduled for Wednesday, April 30th. As you are sorting through clothes, other items can be donated but will be stored for the Fall Festival. Grace Youth will also be selling baked goods and crafts. Donations will be accepted now through May 7th.

LOCAL SCHOOL SUPPORT

On Friday, April 25th, Grace has the opportunity to help support one of our local schools. Probstfield Elementary is hosting a fundraiser to help support internships from Spanish speaking countries for the Spanish immersion program. Volunteers are needed from 5-8pm to help with grilling hot dogs, serving food, taking tickets, and some small clean up. If you are able to help for any part of that evening, sign up at the Connection Center with your availability or contact Pastor Taylor.

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